

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Masaki IJIMA et al.

Title: COAL DRYING METHOD AND EQUIPMENT,
METHOD FOR AGING REFORMED COAL
AND AGED REFORMED COAL, AND
PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR PRODUCING
REFORMED COAL

1c971 U.S. PTO
10/053648
01/24/02

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 01/24/2002

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1764

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith on Form PTO-1449 a listing of the documents cited by or submitted to the U.S. PTO in parent application Serial No. 09/561,347, filed 04/28/1998. As provided in 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously submitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office in the above-identified parent application.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the references is explained in the parent application.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 24, 2002

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 080542-0158		SERIAL NO. Unassigned		10/053648 10/24/02	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Masaki IIJIMA et al.					
				FILING DATE 01/24/2002		GROUP ART UNIT 1764			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	A1	5,137,539	08/11/1992	Bowling	44	626			
	A2	4,396,394	08/02/1993	Li et al.	44	501			
	A3	4,761,162	08/02/1988	Ratcliffe, et al.	44	626			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION		
	A4	0 758 677	02/19/1997	EPO			YES	NO	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
	A5	Patent Abstract of Japan, 551618892 A. December 16, 1990, Yoshibumi et al., "Heat-Treatment of Coal"							
	A6	Patent Abstract of Japan, 56070093 A, June 11, 1981, Fumiaki, et al., "Heat-Treating Method of Coal"							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									